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Application No. 08/706,217

4 introducing the [passive aerosol] fog into the process area to coat the surfaces of the
5 process area and encapsulate and adhere the particulates against the surfaces with the [passive
6 aerosol] fog.

1 18. (Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the step for recovering the portion of
2 the aerosol vented from the [process area] exhaust stream comprises the step of passing the exhaust
3 stream through a spray bath.

1 29. (Amended Twice) The method of claim 11 wherein the capture liquid is provided
2 in a reservoir within a pressurization chamber and the step for introducing the [aerosol] fog to the
3 process area comprises the step of pressurizing the pressurization chamber to induce flow of the
4 [aerosol] fog into the process area.

REMARKS

In the final action, the examiner indicated that 12-19, 32-35 and 37-44 were allowed, but rejected claims 11, 20, 22, and 26-29. The examiner asserted that "spraying a passive aerosol . . . would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art" However, after telephone interviews with the examiner on August 5 and 12, 1998 and a telephone interview with the examiner's supervisor, Kathryn Gorgos on August 11, 1998 to discuss the prior art of record as applied to claim 11 and possible amendments to claim 11, the examiner and her supervisor concluded that the use of the term "fog" rather than "passive aerosol" in claim 11 would better distinguish the claimed invention over the prior art. Support for the term "fog" can be found in the specification such as at page 4, lines 1-3 and page 5, lines 7-8.

Applicant's have now amended independent claim 11 to include the word "fog." Dependent claim 29 has been amended to comply with the amended language of claim 11. Dependent claim 18 has also been amended to comply with language added to independent claim 16 in a previous amendment.

Claims 11-35 and 37-44 remain in this application. As applicants have addressed all issues raised by the examiner and her supervisor, all claims are now allowable.